

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 9 – 17 were pending previous to the Office Action of August 19, 2003.

Claims 14 and 15 have been cancelled.

Claim 9 is presently amended.

Claims 40 – 45 have been added.

Claims 9 – 13, 16, 17, and 40 – 45 are currently pending.

In the Claims:

Rejection of Claims 9 – 13, 16 and 17 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

In the Office Action, claims 9 – 13, 16 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated under the U.S. Patent No. 6,586,110 ("Obeshaw") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,173,670 ("VanAuken").

Claim 14 was indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 9 has been rewritten to include the limitations of previous claim 14. Claim 9, as amended, is therefore patentable over the cited references.

Claims 10 – 13, 16, and 17 depend upon amended claim 9, and therefore are also patentable over the cited references. Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw his rejection of claims 9 – 13, 16, and 17.

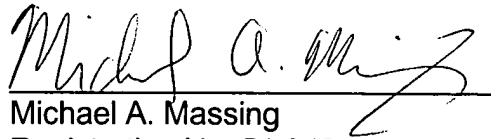
Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 15 was indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Newly added claim 40 is equivalent to previous claim 9 as rewritten to include the limitations of previous claim 15. Independent claim 40, as well as its dependent claims, claims 41 – 45, are therefore patentable over the cited references.

SUMMARY

Pending Claims 9 – 13, 16, 17, and 40 - 45 are patentable. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner grant allowance of this application. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney for the Applicants via telephone if such communication would expedite this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michael A. Massing", written over a horizontal line.

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